

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 02197 031555Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 OES-06 FEA-01 INT-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /038 W

-----040223Z 004460 /73

R 031444Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6816

UNCLAS CARACAS 2197

PASS TO OED/MEPD AND OIM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, VE

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT: BTX PLANT

1. PROJECT NAME: MARAVEN BTX PLANT.
2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION: CONSTRUCTION OF A PLANT TO PRODUCE BENZENE, TOULENE, AND XYLENE FOR THE NATIONAL MARKET. PLANT PROBABLY WILL BE LOCATED NEAR MARAVEN REFINERY ON PARAGUANA PENINSULA.
3. EXECUTING AGENCY/PROJECT MANAGER: IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT MARAVEN WILL BE CHARGED WITH EXECUTING THIS PROJECT.
4. ANTICIPATED BID DATES: UNKNOWN.
5. ESTIMATED PROJECT COST/FOREIGN CONTENT: UNKNOWN.
6. COMPETITIVE FACTORS: UNKNOWN.
7. COMMENT: THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BTX PLANT WAS ORIGINALLY CONTEMPLATED IN THE AMBITIOUS PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PREPARED BY THE GOV NATIONAL PETROCHEMICAL COUNCIL IN 1976.

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PAGE 02 CARACA 02197 031555Z

THAT PLAN IS UNDERGOING SWEEPING REVISION AT THE PRESENT TIME SOURCES IN THE VENEZUELAN PETROCHEMICAL INSTITUTE (IVP) AND PETROLEOS DE VENEZUELA INFORMED POST THAT THE BTX PROJECT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO MARAVEN (FORMERLY SHELL U.K.) FOR DEVELOPMENT. PRIVATE SECTOR SOURCES REPORTED THAT THE BTX PLANT WOULD BE THE FIRST OF THE PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY EXPANSION PROJECTS TO BE REALIZED BECAUSE PRODUCTION OF THOSE PRODUCTS WAS NEEDED SOON

TO ENABLE IVP'S EL TABLAZO COMPLEX TO BE FULLY DEVELOPED.  
HOWEVER, A CHEMICAL SECTION OFFICIAL AT MARAVEN INFORMED POST  
THAT THE BTX PROJECT HAD BEEN "SHELVED" FOR THE PRESENT  
BUT ADDED THAT MARAVEN PROBABLY WOULD BE CHARGED WITH RESPON-  
SIBILITY FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT WHEN THE DECISION IS MADE TO GO  
AHEAD WITH IT. MARAVEN SOURCE HAD NO IDEA WHEN THAT DECISION  
WOULD BE MADE. END COMMENT.  
ASENCIO

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
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**SAS ID:** 3222754  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** BENC, VE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009